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Considerations

Relating to our

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CHOICE,

AND THE

QUALIFICATIONS

OF OUR

Members of Parliament.

BY A

Church of England-Man.

L O N D O N,

Printed for W. Freeman, at the Bible
against the Middle-Temple-Gate,
in Fleetstreet. 1711. (Price 6d.)

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CONSIDERATIONS

Relating to our

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*QUALIFICATIONS of our
Members of Parliament.*

IN our Election of *Knights and Bur-*
gesses to serve in *Parliament*, it is
our Security and Honour, our Ad-
vantage and Duty, to choose such
Representatives, as are animated with a
Zeal for God's Glory and our most pure
Religion, and well affected to the United
Interests of Her Majesty and Her People.

Certainly, such Persons whose Lici-
tious and Immoral Lives are a Refuta-
tion to their *Profession*, are not so wor-
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thy of the great Trust, as they, whose Probity, Virtues, and bright Examples, give a Lustre to the *Characters* they bear.

But since there are innumerable Instances of *reclaim'd* Extravagants, who have prov'd remarkable Ornaments to *Church and State*; where ever such Cases are in Prospect, we must be cautious how we pass an irreverfable Doom on the Man. The returning *Prodigal* receives a double Welcome in his *Father's* House, tho' a *Pharisaical* Brother may scarce allow him the Crumbs that fall from his Table.

But if a *loose* Liver has no agreeable Charms to recommend him, he who is *loose* in his Principles, is to be thrown out as the worst Monster of the Two. The first does follow the Dictates of a depraved *Nature*, but the later is a Promoter of *Wickedness in High Places*, and is by himself abandoned to the *Evil Spirit*, in whose Company we are obliged to leave him, because he esteems no Society better. If we pray for his Conversion, he scorns not only the Power, but our Form of Godliness; and desires our Excuse, when we wish him Salvation on Gospel Terms. We

We cannot indeed, without just Indignation, observe the modish *Scepticism* of the Age which explodes *Revelation*, and resolves the most sacred Mysteries, together with the Rewards and Punishments of another World, into *Priestcraft* and *cunningly devised Fables*: The Writings of these *Free-Thinkers*, so industriously convey'd into all Parts, are no less Pestilential than the Breath of a *Basilisk*. Such spiritual *Banditti* in former Ages, as they were less encouraged; so they lurk'd in obscure Corners; but now they are to be found in Places of principal Resort: They are cherished with a warm Sun, they grow Rampant and Audacious; and there is scarce a great Family in the Nation but that has been attack'd by them, or afforded them some unhappy *Profelytes*. Any one influenc'd by such Councils, may be well excus'd appearing in our *great Senate*, but had better confine himself to his Closet, where the Works of the greatest *Apostates* shine in Vestments of Gold wrought about with divers Colours: For those are the Oracles, which our *Man of Reason* (as he is pleas'd to call himself) does as studiously consult, as the Statesman does the Records

cords in the *Tower*, or the Lawyer the Year-Books, Code and Institutions. Or if he be dispos'd to appear abroad; there are suitable Clubs, where (to evidence his Improvement under the Influence of his Domestick *Teraphim*) he may rant against Providence, spit his Venom against Heaven, and be kindly received by Men, who carry the like Marble in their Hearts, and the same Brass in their Foreheads as himself.

We cannot but express our Grief and Surprize at the Encrease and Exorbitancy of daring *Hereticks*, who boldly deny the Divinity and Satisfaction of the *Holy Jesus*, and the other grand Fundamentals of our Faith. That they have been caressed, declared honest and good-natur'd Men: That they have at any Time been intrusted with the Instruction of our Youth, Guardianship of the Poor, and disposing of Charities, and thereby have had Opportunity of conveying their Poison into the Minds of the Ignorant, Unwary or Necessitous, notwithstanding the Fathers of the Church have plainly declar'd, that the Arguments, and consequently the Conversation of the *Arians*, were more intolerable than the Tempta-

Temptations of the Devil, and when we are admonished by St. *John*, the great Apostle of Charity, not to bid God-speed to those that oppugn the Doctrine of Christ: These Calamities have been already too far extended, without authorizing the Men to spread their Infection within the Walls of the *House of Commons*.

An Indifference as to the Choice of Religion, is an effectual Preparative to the introducing of *Popery*; being calculated for that purpose by the Factors of *Rome*. And therefore when we hear a precious *Hobs-Goblin* affirm, that the Establishments of the Church are precarious; that the Orders and Regiment derived from the *Apostles*, are not of so necessary an Obligation, but that they ought to be innovated and dispensed with at the *Inclination* of the People: That the Communion of Saints, like the Face of a *Molatto*, is a Mixture of the different Complexions: That a *Turk*, a *Jew*, a *Formosan*, or other *Infidel*, (he means if himself were such) and consequently an *Atheist*, (and to him he seems more nearly related) has as fair Hopes as a Christian: When these and the like Overtures
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of a wild *Comprehension* are proclaim'd; we cannot but dread the Consequence of the *Latitudinarian* Doctrines which blow up our *Faith* by a very Flatulent *Charity*, and destroy Principles upon Pretence of enlarging the Foundation. That the Blast of this *Gun-powder* may not endanger our *Parliament*, we earnestly pray, and therefore may no treacherous *Faux*, however disguised, be admitted to enter the Doors of that August Assembly, lest he set Fire to his Train of Mischiefs therein.

That we should in our Choice have a Regard to those that are firm to the *Doctrine and Discipline* of our Church, is reasonably to be suppos'd, since all foreign *Protestant* States pursue the same Method; and t'would be a wretched Inconsistency to place the avow'd Enemies of a Constitution at the Helm of Affairs. 'Tis amazing indeed, to consider how some People play fast and loose with sacred Things. They in the first Place take it for granted, That their own Saints may, for Worldly Advantage, have a Dispensation to run counter to their old avowed Principles; and having corrupted their own Text, they throw the Ap-
pli-

plication, not without Clamour and foul Spittle, on such of the Churchmen as are no Friends to their *Occasional* Compliances. But what a strange Confusion is it, to vilify us for being of the same Judgment with many of the more honest Dissenters? If Men conform meerly in Prospect of Honour or Profit, and enter into such Terms of Communion to qualify them for an Office, which at other Times they brand as a System introductory of Popery; ought we to be accused for speaking plain Matter of Fact, and saying a Serpent is not a Dove? The *Quakers*, and many Conscientious People who abhor this Prevarication, act upon more justifiable Principles. The late Distinction of their not holding constant Communion upon the Account of the *Impositions*, and of their Conforming Occasionally to preserve their *Christian Liberty*, is a Chimerical Jargon, and breaks through all Considerations of Unity and Peace, of Order and Obedience, of Sincerity and Perseverance; having no Parallel so exact as that amongst the old *Gnosticks*; who, to save or to encrease their Bacon, could conform and transform into all Shapes.

As they who dissent from our Communion for Matters of the most trivial Moment, are guilty of the greatest *Schism* ; so there is a Succession given to the growing Evil, by the many lately erected *Seminaries* in several Parts of the Nation: This Conduct does evidence, that there is little or no Design of healing the Breach ; and 'tis a melancholy Reflection, that some of our pretended Friends appear so very easy under the Circumstance , as though they reckoned it no Misfortune to have the seamless Coat of *Christ* rent, and treated with viler Indignities than by the very Soldiers that crucify'd him.

Against these, we cannot but enter our Protest, as well as against those who stun Us with a new-fangled Notion of *Moderation* : A very dangerous *Shibboleth* to our Church, which we poor *Ephraimites* can neither interpret nor pronounce, according to the *Broke* of certain *Gileadites* who have taken the Fords in the North before us. And truly, whereas the *Moderation* hereby intended has no Reference to what the *Apostle* meant ; (nothing being less in Design with our modern Prophets than a Gospel Temper.)

Temper.) It must be considered according to the Meaning it bears in the Language of *Caledonia*, where the Word prosper'd into a glorious Effect. Moderation, sweet Moderation, having there been for a long Time the Outcry, 'till the *Kirk*, like *Moses's* Rod, swallowed up the Moderate Men, and all other Pretenders. No *Churchman*, no *Quaker*, no *Dissenter*, has there the Privileges by Statute, which in a warmer and more truly moderate Climate is allowed. Whilst the Men of *Gilead* (for so we call them, tho' they have little *Balm* in their Country) confine their *Ecclesiastical* Favours to their own Borders, we shall be under no Pain of being either surpriz'd or over-charged with their Courtesies: But we have Reason as to fear, so to declare, if not against them who are wise in their Generation, yet against the Proceedings of many intriguing *Modelists* here, who endeavour to introduce the same *Spiritual Inquisition* among us as is there prevailing. The Churchmen must be so moderate, as to give up their Securities to the Charity of our sawning Hypocrites, and the later by the Magick of *Occasional Conformity* to get into the

Publick Administration: By which Conveyance, *Tweed* will soon mingle with our *Thames*, and one and the same Spirit of Moderation appear on the South as on the North of *Berwick*. May all Unite upon better Principles, and may a necessary standing *Indulgence* be continued to *Tender Consciences*, but so as they may with Modesty own the Favour, and not strive for Mastery as the sprightly *Nantz* in the Seaman's Bowl, which mounts Cock-a-Hoop above the *Passive* Water, and the other feeble Ingredients.

Once again I say, may the Members, we choose, be well disposed to such an *Union* with our Dissenting Brethren, if it can be gain'd on just and warrantable Terms, and without discarding our Respects to the *Apostolical* and Primitive Ages: But if our Sins and Iniquities still withhold that inestimable Blessing; let them, as has been before intimated, continue an *Indulgence* to Consciences truly Scrupulous, so as the perverse Passions, Pride, or unreasonable Demands of others, may not make us omit a provident Care for our own Safety. 'Tis but reasonable we should be Judges of our own Acts of
Parliament,

Parliament, and t'would be both a vain and false Construction to affirm, that the Exemption of any People from the *Penal Laws* doestake off their Charge or Guile of *Schism*, (I know not whether on some Considerations it may not rather aggravate it) much less doth it afford them a Plea or Authority to ascend the Chair, or to endeavour after a Dominion over the *National* Establishment, from whence they derive the Privileges and Graces they Enjoy.

Least of all should the *Indulgence* skreen those from the *Penal-Laws*, who are of no Communion at all: But, abusing the Design of the said *Indulgence*, are never to be found within the Walls of any Religious Assembly: And truly, were the Forfeitures duly levied according to the Direction of the Statute, all other Contributions to the Poor would in many Parishes be altogether unnecessary.

Let our Friend in an especial manner be Charitably affected to the Foreign Protestants. Some Letters from Bishop *Ursinus*, and the Gentlemen of *Geneva*, do Evidence the present Calmness of their Temper, and their Readiness to promote an *Union*. May our Representative be
heartily

heartily Zealous in encouraging so glorious a Work, tending to the Security of the *Protestant* Interest in General, and the no less Confusion of our home-bred and artful Masters of Misrepresentation, who studiously conceal the best, and shew us, in their own Vizard, the worst Face of the Churches abroad; and impose on the World a notorious Falsity, that the Discipline which *Calvin* introduc'd at *Geneva*, was a Matter of his Choice, and not a Force on his Inclination.

Their unwearied Diligence in endeavouring to blacken us in the Opinion of our *Brethren* beyond Sea, is yet more Inhumane and Unchristian: And we cannot but complain that they have not altogether failed of Success: Of which, among a Thousand other Instances, we have had a peculiar One in *Holland*, where their base Stories so far prevail'd, that the erecting the Episcopal Church at *Rotterdam* was for several Years obstructed; till the *Dutch*, upon their mature Examination into our Articles, Canons, and Liturgy, did to their surprize find nothing of that Popery and *Babylon* in our Constitution as those Fugitives to Truth, as
well

well as the Religion of their Country, had charg'd it with. These Men's Charity, like their Faith, is of a *Græcian* or *Punick* Stamp, and as in this and the like Cases they speak contrary to what they think, (as at other Times without thinking at all) so they deserve not so much the Character of *Enthusiasts* as direct *Impostors*, acting by deliberate Malice, and employing their Tongues in the Service of the Father of Lies.

The deplorable Estate of Religion beyond Sea, seems of Right to challenge our Notice: For as we are not insensible that the Calamity has been carried further since the Peace of *Ryswick*, than before the War; so I take it that, our Knights and Burgesses are doubly obliged to provide, that in the next General Grand Settlement some Care and Regard may be had of our afflicted Brethren: And that in the mean Time, we who talk so big of Reformation at Home, may not think the Service of God, and our Duty to his Church abroad at any Time out of Season. Our Ambassador was extremely caressed at *Versailles*, and a *Philosopher* of good Gust, who attended in that Service, has in Print assured us, that there
was

was excellent *Burgundy* in the Palaces : He was pleas'd also in a very familiar Style to remark a Wonder (to him, it seems, tho' a famous Naturalist) very astonishing, That a *Dutchess* of above Ninety Years had no Teeth in her Head. But we have never as yet been favour'd with any *Memoir* from him, or the Ambassador's Chaplain, of any Attempt made towards the restoring of the old Edict of *Nants*, and the other *Pacta Conventa* in Favour of the Reform'd Churches. Should *Sion* lie waste, and our Nobles and Gentry have cieled, painted, gilded Houses ! Should the wild Boar of the Forest, who was born with Teeth in his Head, and has ever since made terrible shew of his Tusks and Bristles, destroy God's Vine, and we Carouse with the Blood of the Grape without concern ! Certainly if the Loss of Teeth was so surprising in a Dutchess's Mouth, (tho' it would have been the greater Miracle a Person of her Age should have had any) how might we more justly admire and complain at the Loss of a Tongue in the Mouths of such as negotiated the Affairs of a Prince, who was the Defender of the Faith by an ancient Title,

tle, and a Maintainer of the same Interest by a new One of his own ?

I hope I may be permitted to speak like one of Queen *Elizabeth's* Protestants, who took extremely to Heart King *Henry* the Fourth's embracing the Popish Perswasion: And therefore if any Person may in Fact or Judgment concur with those false Protestants, who upon secular Views, may recommend to any other of the *German* Electors or Princes a Renunciation of their Faith, let us not entrust them. People of such Principles would for any Temporal Advantage Sacrifice our Creed, and our All, rather than not advance the Reputation of their own Schemes. If it made for their Interest, or might gratify their Malice, the Pretender, or any Popish Successor, should have as easy an Access in *England*, as in *Saxony*, notwithstanding the hard Words they at some Times give them. Let us no longer exclaim against the *Jesuits* in *China*, for placing the Heathen *Confucius* ~~for~~ among their Saints, nor accuse some precious Merchants in *Japan*, who deny their Saviour in order to obtain the Privilege of a free Traffick; since *Europe* (and perhaps our own Nation) have afforded

forded Instances of as wide a Departure from known Truths, and of as remarkable a Coalition of different Perswasions.

O what a Length has Popery run even in *England* within Twenty Years past ! And indeed Thousands are well prepared for it, since Principles are decry'd, and our own Church, which, by the Allowance of the Foreign Protestants, and of the Papists themselves, is the grand Bulwark against Popery ; is undermined and betray'd by so many crafty *Machiavilians*, Blasphemers, and temporizing *Hypocrites*.

Let us elect such Members as dare appear against Popery in all its Disguises, and prevent the further Encrease of a Religion, which is a proper Choice to such as love to live Easy and Licentious, and no great Torment to those who are fixt to no Religion at all.

Let our Eye be upon such a Representative, as abhors the Distinction of *High* and *Low Church*, as it is at present bandied about to enflame and divide us. To act above or below his Duty, is like acting above the Sphere, or below the Center ; which is Nonsense in Terms : But let him not be ashamed to act as
High

High as he can for God's Honour, the Prosperity of his Church, the Disappointment of its Enemies, and the Good of his own Soul: As High as he can in Duty to our Sovereign the Queen, and the Advantage of the Community; let him on these Occasions be a High Flyer, and not value the Snarling of any testy Animals, who bark at their own deformed Shadows.

May he never be ashamed or afraid to render God his Due, nor be such a fawning Sycophant, as to Deify the greatest Mortal on Earth.

We readily accuse the fulsome Flattery of the *French*, who distinguish their Monarch by Divine Titles. May not any of us incur the Censure, with which they stand charged; nor affirm that the Mercy, or any other of the Attributes of our Prince, however amiable in Quality, or eminent in Degree, are infinite. Such Language is not encouraged by the Doctrine of our Church, which declares, That the Majesty of Heaven does admit of no Rival.

We pity the Extravagance of a Scribler, who affirm'd, That King *William* was a Messenger decipher'd in the *Revelations*:

This bold Stroke contributed no Advantage to his Glorious Memory.

We should be at a Loss to reduce in proper Bounds the Excursion of another Declaimer, who gave a late memorable Action, the Preference to the Success of *Joshua* the great Captain of *Israel*, notwithstanding he was attended by God's immediate Presence and Spirit: We should not very readily expound this Cast of Fancy, had not a Reverend Author assured us, that many worthy Notions flow by an happy Chance, without Fore-Thought or Meditation. Travellers, we know, have many such Notions, that with Reference to a Great City in *Italy*, (which perhaps our Traveller might have seen) may bear the Name of Romances.

The Solacisms in Divinity and Reason, the Blasphemies that occur in the Mouths and Discourses of some of our *Modern Casuists*, the delicate Problems advanc'd by them, no less Destructive of Faith and Manners, than inconsistent with their former Opinions: (For some Gentlemen, as they grow older they grow wiler, as the Crafty Serjeant affirm'd, when, by Dint of Fallacy, he had carried

ried a Cause contrary to a Parallel Case, which the Judge a few Hours before, with Regard to the Arguments of the same subtle Pleader, had given the other Way in his Favour.) These Matters are of Spiritual Cognizance, and yet ought not to be so far remov'd from our Commoner's Thoughts, but that he ought by a well-tim'd Zeal to vindicate God's Honour and Justice, against all the unworthy Attacks wheresoever and by whomsoever made.

May our Representative concur with all good Men in praising God, (who is the only Giver of Victory) for the late wonderful Successes against the common Enemy of Christendom; the glorious Operations of so many *Campaigns*; the reducing so many Fortresses and Towns by the Arms of the Allies; the Intrepidity of our Generals; the Bravery of our Soldiers; the Harmonious Concurrence of the Confederacy to the Common Cause; the uninterrupted Union of the Two Kingdoms, the Easiness and Satisfaction of the People under their Taxes; the distinguishing Bounty of Heaven in averting the Pestilential Distempers that rage in other Countries; and in exempting
our

our Nation from being the Seat of War, and the Theatre of Violence and Devastation: For this happy Train of Circumstances, let our *Commoner*, with all true *Christians*, express his Gratitude to the *Almighty Benefactor*; but at the same Time he ought to observe the many Strokes of the Divine Vengeance inflicted on a Sinful People. I fear we have too soon forgot the repeated Afflictions of our Merchants, especially in the late Reign, when, by a modest Computation, as many goodly Ships were lost or taken, as belonged to all our Ports at the beginning of the War. The Nation expresses an hearty Concern at the *Dreadnaught's* being cast away; but the more direful Shipwrecks of our Royal Navy, when the *Dutchess*, the *Coronation*, the *Windsor*, the *Mary*, the *Northumberland*, the *Association*, and many other Capital Ships, were swallowed up by the Merciless Element, have not made very lasting Impressions on us: The Misfortune that befel the old Royal *Sovereign*, the *Exeter*, and other Ships in the very Harbour by Treachery or Negligence, is esteemed a meer Trifle. Two Hurricanes filled our Seas with the floating Corps of our stoutest Mariners,

ners, and our Shores with the Carcasses of torn Vessels, the same Tempests and two unseasonable Harvests scattered a black Calamity through our Land, enhanced by a Knavish or Improvident Exportation of our Corn; and yet the Sense of these vast and almost irreparable Losses seems wholly to have expired. A dismal Fire and Earthquake at *Jamaica*; the Insults of our Enemies on *Nevis*; the Disappointments (not hitherto retriev'd) by the Villany of the Sea Captains in *Bembo's* Expedition; the yet more Fatal Miscarriage of our Convoys and Transports designed for *Spain*, (the Effects of which were felt first at *Almanza*, and ever since in our Trade and Foreign Interests;) These were Dispensations of an angry Providence, that ought not, I think, to be so soon banish'd our Kalender. The sensible Expende of Blood and Treasure in carrying on a necessary War against a Powerful and most Perfidious Adversary, is an Affair that ought to employ our Thoughts, as it does our Purses, whether we think or no.

These, and various other, are *God's Chastisements*, though not so pernicious and judicially Penal as our own Sins: Such
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in particular are our *Obstinacy*, *Deafness* to *Reproofs*, and *Irreclamableness* under the *Rod*; our *Abuse* of *Mercies*, and *Ingratitude* to *God* and *Man*, *ungrateful Representations* of the highest *Gratitude*, &c. our *Pride*, *Luxury*, and *Excess*; our *Faction*, *Malice*, *unsatiable Thirst* after *Revenge*, *perverse Passions*, *Animosities*, and *Invidious Terms* of *Distinction*; our *refined Artifices* of *Wheedle*, *Tricking*, *Guile*, *Extortion*, and *Bribery*; our *Compounding* between *God* and *Mammon*; our *Contempt* of *Things Sacred*, *Sacrilege*, and *adapting* the *blackest Villanies* into the *Catalogue* of *glorious Performances*: These and other are the *Judgments* that arise from our selves; carrying with them not only their *Guilt*, but their assured *Punishment*, and have deeply sunk us into a *wretched State* of *Misery* and *Confusion*. We desire the *Person* we elect, to be so far a *Christian*, as to acknowledge the *Importance* of these *serious Truths*, and endeavour to avert the *impending Storms* they threaten; the *Cloud* at present, like that of *Elijah*, seeming no bigger than our *Hand*, but we know not how soon it may darken our *Horizon*, however clear and calm it now appears.

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2. Let our *Representative* have a proper *Notion* of our Government; and not run on the fatal Extreams, where some bold *Adventurers* (who sail by a false *Compass*) have made *Shipwreck*.

We seldom lose our *Prince*, but when either God calls for him, or when he leaves his People, or is not capable to govern them; which later Cases are of the Number of the *Extraordinary*.

Our *Kings* and *Queens* have an *Hereditary Right* to their *Royal Crown* and *Dignity*; and whenever the Predecessor dies by a natural or civil Death, his Successor has the same *Hereditary Right*, which is never also to be invaded but upon Cases *extraordinary*. Her Majesty has this *Hereditary Right*, and, for Default of Issue, the *Dutchess Dowager* of the illustrious House of *Hannover*; *Papists* having been declared incapable to govern *Protestants*, and consequently dead in a *Civil* or *Political* Sense. And whereas King *William*, after the Demise of his *Royal Consort*, held the Scepter during his Widowhood, that Instance was one of the *extraordinary* Cases: He held it for Life (and the Two Princes consented) for the better *Security* of the future *Hereditary Succession*.

sion in the *Protestant Line*: But the Limitation was not to the Issue of his Body; Her present Majesty's *Hereditary Title* being not be fore-claus'd without Violence to *Nature, Reason, and Law*; by which Threefold Cord, she holds the Hearts of her Subjects, and her own *Sovereign Claim* to the Imperial Crown.

And truly this her Claim, upon the Throne's becoming vacant or vacated by the Incapacity of the *Papists*, would have been made, and been exerted by her, had there been no further Declaration, Recognition, or Settlement by *Parliament*; to which, however, we pay all imaginable Deference, as to the Act of Prince and People, and as being Declaratory of that *Right* of the *Queen*, which would not have had one Minute's *Suspension*, but only (as has been before intimated) for the greater Security of the Succession or Right of *Inheritance* in the *Protestant Family* for After-Ages, which was a Case truly *extraordinary*, and of the last Importance.

We dare not derive Her Majesty's *Authority* from any other *Source* than God himself, who is the Foundation of Power; and every *Legal Sentence*, which in Her
Ma-

Majesty's Name is pronounc'd, is rightly affirm'd to be a Part of God's Providence, whereby He governs this World to his most Holy Purposes, and Ingredient to the Retribution of the Great *Day of Judgment* in the next.

The *Mob* in all Ages bath bin the most incompetent Judge, as well as the most dangerous Assertor of *Legal Rights*; tho', 'as *Satan* is a grand Deceiver, so his Legion does sometimes fly in the Faces of those who before adored it as their *God*, and consulted it as their *Sovereign Oracle*.

We have all imaginable Reason to discourage *popular Clamours*, which King *Charles* the I. of blessed Memory did seem to predict, would one Time or other produce fatal Disasters in our Constitution.

It was Bishop *Stillingfleet's* Prayer, That the *Inclination* of the People might be never made use of with us, as in another Place, to abolish *Episcopacy*: May we all pray, and our Representative endeavour, it may never be made use of to extirpate *Monarchy*.

Let our *Knight* or *Burgher* be one who is careful to maintain Her Majesty's *Prerogative*, and our just *Liberties*: Let him consider, that a *Commoner* (and it was a great *Commoner's* Expression) may be

compared to the *Tortoise*, which is safe and secure within his own Limits, and may defy the *Outrage* of the fiercest Driver: But if he puts his Nose or Claw out of his Shell, every Lash, Tread, or petty Accident, does distress and enfeeble him.

Our *Government* is not *Elective*, nor can all the Power of Man make it properly such, unless the *Constitution* be destroy'd, and the Posteriors destroy the Head.

We hope he will not desire to be distinguish'd by the Character of a Man of *Revolution Principles*, especially under the auspicious Reign of the Best of *Queens*, who is the *Mother* of Her People, the *Patronefs* of our Laws, and under whom our *State* is safe, as our *Church* frequently declar'd *secure*. He should rather claim a *Right* to a *Loyalty*, firm, immoveable, unalienable, and no less *hereditary* than Her Sacred Majesty's Title. He must not, he dares not, nor shall he, if he dare, copy from the vile Cut-throats of *Forty-eight*, when the Nation felt the Fury of *Reformers*, that murder'd a *King*, and set up the basest *Tyrants* in his Stead; that voted down the House of *Lords*, and having assumed the Title to themselves, lorded it most insolently
over

over all the Realm, whilst one of their sanctified Priests (no *Bishop* we may be sure) had the Assurance to affirm, That the Office of a *King* was a dangerous and unnecessary Charge to the People.

Let not our Representative yield to the abolishing of *January* Fast; especially since the unparallel'd Barbarity then committed, has so many Apologizers now. If our *Saviour* declar'd, That the Blood, shed from the Time of Righteous *Abel* to that of *Zechariah*, should be required of the *Jews* of his Age; certainly the Guilt of our *Royal Martyr's* Blood cannot be washed off, whilst so many accursed Wretches revive the Bloody Fact with all the Expressions of a solemn Triumph at their abominable *Feasts*, and vindicate it in their Prints and common Discourses.

The Works of *Milton*, and other *Scarlet Regicides*, have again sprung up among us like Darnel in a Field of Barley, and all this for the publick Instruction of our dull Youth, who otherwise might not be so duly appriz'd of the refined Topicks of *Rebellion* and King killing Doctrines.

Some Gentlemen, who chant Treason in the softest Measures, seem averse to the
throwing

throwing those delicate Volumes into the Flames, lest they should thereby martyr the Authors, to whom K. *Charles* the II. gave a beneficial Indempnity: And as these People (though they put the *Jesuit* in a shorter Cloak) would be deem'd to take the widest Steps from *Popery*, so they declare against the affixing any *Expurgatory Indices* to those seditious Books. And truly for once we are dispos'd to gratify them, provided they extend the like Privilege to our *Kalender*, and neither purge (except with their Tears) any of the Days therein, which they have already blacken'd, nor administer fresh Occasion for putting others into a like *sable* Dress. On which Terms we take our Leave at present.

Let the Person we elect be such an one, as will look Abroad as well as at Home, and laying aside all private Animosities, concur to the Support of Her Majesty in Her Alliances, for reducing to Reason the common *Beautifeu* and Disturber of *Europe*. In order to which necessary Work, may his Endeavour be, That the Supplies, for the future, to be granted to carry on a just War, or to obtain an honourable Peace, may be intrusted

trusted to the Management of Men of unexceptionable Probity, and *hating Covetousness*; so that Her Majesty's Glory, which is most dear to us, together with the Treasure and Reputation of the Nation, which are very valuable Things, may not be sacrific'd to the insatiable Avarice of *selfish* Men, who prefer a base and *private* Interest to the *publick* Good.

In what Age were there such Estates gain'd by *Courtiers*, as in ours? What Heaps of Treasure have they amassed, as though *Virgil's Harpies*, which old King *Alphonso* affirm'd, then nested in *Rome*, had taken their Flight to another Country? Against the Talons of such insatiable *Birds* of Prey, let our *Knight* or *Burgher* be Armour-proof, and humbly recommend those Officers to Her Majesty's Service, who, like the famous *Tirshata*, pity the Calamities of their Country, and will not, on their own Account, be too chargeable to them, *because of the Fear of God*. This was the honourable *Nebemiah's* Language, though it may seem Cant to certain shining Sparks, who have *Gold* at their Hearts, and *Iron* in their Consciences. Let him at least endeavour to have the Policy

of the *Dutch* transcribed ; among whom the highest Dignitaries of State receive no more than a reasonable Stipend, with which some *Ministers* in a much lower Sphere, (I wish I could not say among us) would esteem a Trifle neither worth their Pains nor Acceptance. It has been observ'd, That the Banks in *Holland*, *Genoa* and *Venice*, are the Shrines, to which some close Managers have paid a more sincere Veneration than to their Duty : And truly, since the Abolishing of the *Sanctuaries*, they may receive Security at those *Asylums* or *Altars of Mercy*, and avoid the Hazard of unkind *Reassumptions*.

To prevent any of that Gang from crawling into the House of *Commons*, let it be our Care to intrust those, and only those, with the Disposal of our *Fortunes*, whose Estates or visible Effects may give us some Security of their Concern for the Good of the *Publick*, in which they have so considerable a Share themselves: May such however be excluded, who are assured Friends to a corrupt Interest. It has been more than feared, that *K. Charles the II.* and his *Brother*, had not the alone Pensioners ; but that

that some, who exclaimed most bitterly against the Luxury of those Times, have since betray'd their own Frailties, and not bin Proof against Temptations. Should an Intrigueing *Courtier*, the *French King*, the *Pope*, the *De'el*, offer highest at the Auction, these *State-Factors* would swallow the yellow Bait; and therefore it ceases to be a Wonder, why they themselves should expend so largely to gain their Post, since otherwise they might lose their Trade. In the mean Time, as a voluminous Plot is hereby carried on against our Religion, Government and Liberties, by base Agents, who sacrifice their Consciences to the Will of their Masters; so the plain honest Gentleman, who endeavours to stem the Torrent, is obliged (to the no small Damage of his Family) to bear up against united Stocks, and the dark Artifices of crafty Engineers, who purchase Votes at any Rate, in order to set their own to Sale: But when even this their Management seem'd not so very promising, we have been told, That the *Flood-gates of the Treasury* should be let open upon us: An Expression worthy the Lips of a *Jugurtha*, a *Cataline*, or a *Cromwell*! Such Golden

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Streams

Streams may be aptly compared to the fiery *Hygre*, that flows from *Vesuvio* and Mount *Ætna* into the neighbouring Country, where they spread very dismal Desolations. Perhaps those Words were ill-timed in Point of Prudence, so that the Inundation may by an over-ruling Providence be prevented, and the threaten'd Danger expire in Smoke.

We hope our Candidate may not himself be under the Perswasion of making Presents of shining *Pictures*, or any other tempting Gratifications to the Electors or their Wives, nor of pursuing a Method of Traffick too much in the Mode by an advantageous Abatement on a *Bargain* to persuade a Miser to barter away his Reason and Senses, whilst others are trick't out of their Integrity by the engaging Prevalency of a *Wager* artificially thrown into their Bosom, to the apparent Exclusion of the just Ballance which *God* and *Nature* had before placed therein.

We trust, none, who espouse our Friend's Interest, will, to gain a Qualification, commence *Night-Burghers*, and be admitted into the Liberties of a City or Town, at the Time that *Bats* and *Scritch-Owls* exercise their proper Dominion.

nion. May none of them be put upon the Humour of making Purchases to gain a Vote, according to the Tenour of certain Freeholds, which, from the Prime Inventor, bear the Name of my *Lord's*—the Lord knows whose Grants.

Much less may they be under the Necessity of a *Slavish* Dependance, or be so regardless of Principles, as to fear the Threats of any powerful Oppressor, who discards an honest Craftsman or Labourer of his *Employ*, meerly because he will not give up his Conscience, and All that is most dear to him and his Country, to the Will of a *Tyrant*. These and innumerable other subdolous, Clandestine, and barbarous Practices, which attack our *Constitution* in the most sensible Part, do not so very cleanly correspond with the Grave and lofty Pretences of too many among Us, who make the loudest Outcry of *Liberty* and *Property*, of the *People's Rights* and *Freedom of Elections*; and yet break thro' all Obligations both Sacred and Civil, to render all those *Titles* as Insignificant as the Figures of a *Castle* drawn on a moving Sand.

As to a peculiar Case of present Contest, let our *Representative* be of the heal-

ing Temper, and not take Part with the unjustifiable Heats or Passions of any. But at the same Time He and we ought to consider, that Violent Distempers demand strong and ungrate Physick ; and as our *Saviour* himself, tho' the great Exemplar of Meekness and Condescension , stil'd the Proud and Covetous *Scribes and Pharisees*, a *Generation of Vipers*, their Proselytes the *Children of Hell*, and assign'd the murderous *Jews* to the *Devil*, as their proper *Father* ; so let any *Bravo's* in this Age, beware how they deserve the like Salutation from his *Messengers*. In the Accounts we have of the Reformation in *Germany*, we find that *Melancthon*, *Bucer*, *Oecolompadius*, and other Persons, acted their Parts and Duties with all sweetness and composure of Temper ; but *God*, in his infinite Wisdom, thought it not improper to raise the Lyon-like Spirit of *Luther* to roar against the intolerable Villanies of the *Roman Court*, and its Creatures, which, as *Bishop Burnet* observes, had laid themselves open to Contempt and Hatred, so that any One who would set himself against them, could not but be kindly lookt on by the People, having, besides their other Corruptions, engrossed both the greatest part of the Riches
and

and Power of Christendom, and indulging their Ease; Luther set furiously at these Men, and was so far transported, that at his cooler Hours, he frequently regreted the Excess of his Zeal: He was however a worthy Instrument of the Reformation, and the aforesaid Bishop does allow the Simile to have been ingenious and apt enough, whereby Luther was compared to a Postillion in his waxed Boots, and oiled Coat, lashing his Horses thro' Thick and Thin, and bespattering All about him. (The Bishop was born in another Country:) But whom did he bespatter to their great Tribulation, (other Travellers being content with Travellers Fare, which admits of Dirt that can be easily rub'd off) but such as were very fowl before in the Eyes both of God and Man; but such as would not be corrected by softer Methods; but such as no other Fuller on Earth could cleanse or refine: If Dr. Sacheverell has fallen upon any thelike People, let them look to it who are concern'd, and may the Operation have its proper Effect: For it behoves all Parties to amend their Faults. We excuse neither his, nor theirs. But since they are pleas'd by a powerful Transition to pass from the Doctor, to the

the other great and best Members of the *Church Party*, and to rub their Leprosie on them, they must expect some mild Answers from those, who are traduc'd in the vilest Manner, and in such Language as *Luther* himself would have esteemed a transcript from *Billingsgate* and the *Bear-garden*. Several weekly Prints abound with this *Moderation*, whilst the gaping Admirers sup up the Juice of envenom'd Ink as a *Twist* to their Coffee.

It were well if our Glorious *Queen* could escape their Reflections; but they are extremely alarm'd, that Her *Majesty* should according to Her *Prerogative Royal* dissolve a *Parliament*, as tho' the last were the only *Parliament* that could give Her *Majesty* proper Counsel.

To make their Court to the *People*, they declare, That the Dissolution will infallibly destroy all Overtures of Peace, and introduce the *Pretender*. But was the *French King* in earnest, during the late Negotiations of Peace, when at the same Time he was declar'd in our publick Prayers to have *imagined War in his Heart*? Besides, If the *Pretender* makes an Attempt, will that be his first Essay of setting Foot in *Great Britain*? And is there greater

greater Probability of his succeeding in the second Effort? This cannot reasonably be expected, if all Men will concur with the *Bishop of London* and his Clergy, and other honest Churchmen, in defending Her Majesty's Rights against him. And indeed, One of those Rights is her indisputable Title to the Sovereignty of Peace and War.

Another Grave Gentleman, according to his never-failing Politicks (which are very popular) has, as I hear, produced in many Places of his County, the *Pretender's Medal*. This (if he intimated nothing to the contrary) must be esteemed an *Orthodox* disclaiming of his Title, at least not to have been done in his Favour. Dr. *Sacheverell* produced and cited certain Passages out of the Books of *Deists*, *Hereticks* and *Republicans*, in order to expose their damnable Tenets, and that was esteemed a *Publication*. Certainly had he produc'd the *Medal*, he must have proclaim'd the *Pretender's Title*, yea even tho' he had lately brought over a *Jacobite* of Character into the Interest of the Government, and had himself bin insulted by an eminent *Non-Juror*. A *State Compass*, like that of the *Seaman's*,
is

is a pretty Engine in Oxon and Sarum, standing very near North and South on both.

But, Oh ! the *Bank* is sunk ! Bad News indeed, especially if it be done by Her Majesty's Subjects, or Allies, who had it in their Power to have risen or continu'd its Credit. This is an Instance of their Loyalty and Affection to our Country, and Zeal against *France*.

I need not in this Place examine into the Contrivances of some, who make their Markets by such Changes, of the former Rises and Falls of the *Bank*, the noted Opposition of the *Goldsmiths* to its Establishment, the various Intrigues of *Stock-Jobbers*, and other Paper-Merchants, which are notorious enough without further Explanation. Too many who are concerned in the present Loss, may, if they please, reflect, that the first Rise of the Misfortune was in a great Measure owing to the Proud Wrath and Murmurs of them and their Friends, which have fill'd all Places with Confusion. The affrightning People with Bugbears and unreasonable Jealousies, *Spargendo Voces in Vulgo Ambiguas*, according to *Ulysses's* Stratagem, the abandoning our Nation
to

to Ruine in as bold Terms as the *Mad Prophets*, the producing and deciphering the *Pretender's Medal* in all Companies, the disputing Her Majesty's *Prerogative*, the calling in, by one particular Set of Men, what *Publick Monies* they could, in a meer Pique, because forsooth a few *Ministers* were to be displaced. These and the like Expedients could not be of Service to raise our Credit. The Embassy from the *High and Mighty States of the Bank* to the *Queen*, by an Envoy with a Gold Collar on his Neck, bearing a Commission fraught with a full Cargo of *Dangers* was very familiar, as are also the Discourses of certain *Eutopians* who dictate as Magisterially, as if they would claim the Government to themselves, and allow Her Majesty the meer subordinate Title of an *Administration*.

But truly I know no Impossibility why Men, fired with Discontent and Malice, may not *Talk* too much, and yet too little for their own Advantage: For they may *Talk* themselves out of their Money, and thereby perhaps, by a just Judgment, feel the Strokes of their own peculiar Practice (of *Talking* I mean) on themselves, which has frequently fallen heavy by their Means

on others, who deserved fairer Treatment.

For how many honest *Britains* have they *talked* out of their Offices? How liberal in particular were they of their Speeches on Admiral *Rook* till he remov'd, and then, and not till then, the Faction was both Silent and Easy: And yet that Gentleman had no Alliance to *Papish* Families to render his Correspondence suspected; nor was he a *Prophane Libertine* to corrupt the Morals and Principles of the Mariners under his Care; nor was he such a Captive of *Bacchus*, as to suffer his Fleet to be endanger'd on the Rocks.

But since our Paper-Credit may be so Precarious, and subject to the Artifice of Crafty Jugglers, what Caution ought our Representative to take, that our own Specie may be managed to the best Advantage, and made to circulate among our selves? That our Seamen and others in our Service may, as far as conveniently it may be done, be paid at Home: That our Army may, according to the express Letter of our Act, be supply'd with Tents, Cloathing, Arms and Warlike Provision of our own, and not from Foreigners.

These

These and other such Provisions would not be out of Season, in the Time of so exhausting a War, but encourage our Trade, advance our Reputation, and save very much of our Coin from being convey'd into Foreign Chests, which seldom make Returns of what they receive.

I am positive, our present Circumstances demand the best Husbandry, as well as the strictest Accounts of our Money; and (without Personal Reflections) no One ought to be ambitious of disposing it, and consequently of being elected a Member of Parliament, where the Means and Manner both of the raising and disposing it are concerted, whose Character may give any Ombrage of a too forward or sinister Application.

Her Gracious *Majesty*, of Her Princely Goodness, has bin pleas'd to consult her *Parliament*, touching the Negotiations of *Peace*: Let us beware that we send not too many of those into the House of Commons, who live by the *War*. The Officers of our Fleet and Army are, I confess, worthy all our Respects and Gratitude: May they therefore, during the War, be preferr'd according to their Merit and Station without undue

Preferences, which is but fair Justice, as well as their sole Ambition : And when the War is expired, may they receive Honourable Restitutions in the *Heralds* Office, and Allowances out of the *Exchequer* ; be advanc'd to any Dignities in the State, and not excluded even a Seat in *Parliament* itself. This I presume may satisfie those who are not devoted to the Humour of paying with one Hand, and receiving with the other. And of being both *Debtors* and *Creditors* to themselves.

But to wave the Concern of Money, (which must not be suppos'd to captivate any generous Soul) it seems no extraordinary Instance of our Prudence, to recall a Victorious *General* (a Commoner I mean) from pushing on his Advantages in the Field, on purpose to make Speeches in *Parliament*. Cross Winds may interfere, a *Brest* Squadron may intercept him in his Return to his former Post ; and then we may cry out in vain, Who would have thought it !

To how many more Obligations is our *Representative* obliged, which are not to be contain'd in the narrow Compass of this Paper ?

He

He comes frequently in by *popular Election*, and the *Mob* pretends to extraordinary Liberties whilst the Buffle holds. May he therefore endeavour by justifiable Methods to obviate all tumultuous Pretences, which at first were encouraged by the Republican Party, 'till the Rabble, who being their Masters by a Free-Gift, soon commenc'd Tyrants against the Will and Design of their first Installers, having taken a different Rout from what was chalk'd out for them.

To this Height of *Mobbism* in and about *London*, nothing has contributed more than the vast Buildings in the Suburbs, where innumerable Persons lurk on Purpose to fish in troubled Waters: Nor is it to be doubted, but that the pretended Successor of the great *Fisherman*, *St. Peter*, has his Agents and Nets ready laid, to swallow up *St. Paul* and all about him on any favourable Emergence. What Reason therefore has our Member of *Parliament*, to endeavour a Stop to other Foundations, and to regulate those already laid about our famous *Metropolis*, the Supernumerary Buildings having near an Hundred Years past been compared by *Mr. Camden*

to

to the Spleen, and since more justly esteem'd, the Garbish of the Nation.

In all Motions, Debates, and Publick Acts, may our *Commoner's* Eye be to the Cause in Hand, and to the Good of the Nation, without Respect of Party or Persons. If one, who delights in the Character of a *Low-Church-Man*, proposes any Thing that has a fair Tendency to Her Majesty's Service, the Advantage of the Government, of our Alliances, or other Articles of Importance; may he concur with him, though in other Instances he dares not give his Suffrage: If any Thing be offered for the Security of our *West-India* Islands or Plantations, let him not answer in Contempt, that the *English* are generally more afraid than Hurt: If for the Strengthening our Convoys, let him not act as tho' he thought the War would be too soon expired. Let him endeavour to take off the Imputation of a scandalous Partiality, and give no further Reason to the Name or Practices of the *Committee of Affections*, which of late Years have so highly reflected on the Honour and Justice of the House: Let him be faithful to the People whom he represents, and yet postpone
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the Advantage of his own private Borough or County to the more general Interest.

I can scarce allow our *Friend* to pass without recommending to his Care, a Concern for our Estates and Properties by a further Regulation of *Juries*; that as our Civil Interests may not be sacrificed to the Knavery and Design of cunning Practitioners, and the Knights of the Post, who attend their Service; so in criminal Cases also, Felons may never in the Nature of *Tales* (and consequently in a proper Affinity by a Cant of Words) be received upon the Trial of their Brethren, of which we have had more than one Instance, though not discovered 'till the *Kite*, who pass'd a Verdict on the *Hawk*, flew off, and the Case became irretrievable.

To prevent the growing Evil of Perjury, so rise of late Years among us, and which Archbishop *Tillotson*, and other Reverend Men, have imputed to the too frequent imposing of Oaths, (as hath been scandalously apparent in those at the *Custom-house*, in the Assessment of Taxes, and other yet more trivial Particulars) we cannot but recommend to our Representative's Consideration, How
Men

Men may be excused the hazarding their Souls, and attacking God's tremendous Name and Attributes, where other Methods might answer the Interest of the Government, and bear a better Tendency to the main Design.

To prevent Quarrels, Personal Reflections, and Murthers, may he forward a Bill for the Establishing *Courts of Honour*, where Gentlemen may receive due Reparation for Affronts and Indignities, without renouncing their Christianity, and demanding Justice by their own Sword: On which Occasion, let him not esteem it a Point of mean Complaisance to imitate our Enemy, and copy from his Edicts, which are the most Christian, as well as the most Famous Acts of his Reign. The *French*, we know, are not more mercurial than quick in their Resentments; and yet they seldom or never duel, because they dare not.

Let our Friend (if he be elected) propose a Bill, for the yet more effectual Restraint of Gaming, which ruins our Nobility and Gentry; and of the Super-numerary Ale-houses, which corrupt our Yeomanry and Inferior People. Let Industry be encouraged, Spendthrifts have
Guardians

Guardians assign'd them, and publick Work-houses establish'd in all Counties, where the honest Poor may have a necessary and just Support; whilst Vagrants and dissolute Men undergo a severer Discipline in our *Bridewells*, and other Places to be assign'd for that Purpose.

If it be his Fortune to receive from the People any Reflections on his former Conduct; if the Facts be true, let him repair the Scandal by his future Conversation, and take the popular Clamours so far in good Part, as they serve in the Nature of a Punishment, wherein Shame is an assured Attribute: But if the Reports be false and scandalous, (as they too commonly are) let him justify himself by such Measures, as may evidence him to be a Christian as well as a Gentleman; and be assured, That (after all other Apologies, or exerting of *Legal Rights*) as Innocence is the fullest Answer, so Silence is many Times the best Refutation of a Calumny.

I know some soured *Enthusiasts* have frequently taken all for Truth which the *Mob* has spoken, 'till the Rub turn'd upon them; as they have admired those Men for the most sanctified *Justitaries*, who have

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carried

carried Hell and Damnation on their Tongues. *Herod* and *Pontius Pilate* were held in Reverence by *Annas* and *Caiaphas*; and *Hugh Peters*, who spoke the Sense of what others both thought and acted, pronounc'd *Ex Cathedra*, that the murderous *Red-coats*, who villified and insulted the King, *were our Saviours*; and that *Bradshaw*, and the other bloody *Regicides*, who assign'd the Blessed *Martyr* to the Block, did resemble the *Court of Heaven* passing Sentence on the wicked World.

To be acquitted by such Judges, is an assured Condemnation by the whole College of Saints and Angels; of Patriarchs, Prophets and Apostles; of Confessors and Martyrs; who, as we are assured by a more infallible Testimony, will be *Assessors* at the Great Day of *Audit*, when all Veils will be taken off, and a Knave, an Hypocrite, and a close Republican appear in his proper Colours.

Let therefore our Knight or Burgher perform the Duty of a good Patriot, and not fear the Reproaches of wicked and barbarous Men, whose peculiar Talent is Lying, Slander, and Uncharitableness.

Whilst

Whilst his Life and Actions give Testimony to his Innocence, let him not value the false Suggestions of his Adversaries, who mistaking him for themselves, may call him *Popishly Affected*, a *Jacobite*, a *Friend to the Pretender*; for such they would have him represented, who does not carry *Janus* on his Shoulders, *Leviathan* in his Head, and *Legion* in his Bosom. Thus the Primitive Christians were put into *Bear-Skins*, to be baited in the *Amphitheatre*; and Father *Parsons* declar'd, He could make the *Devil* speak out of any Bishop in *England*.

Sept. 11.

1710.

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